**Maharashtra-Karnataka Border**

2109. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any afforts during the past few months to resolve the Maharashtra-Karnataka border disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision on the Mahajan Commission report on border dispute has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In November, 1996, on the suggestion of the Home Minister, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had written to the Chief Minister of Karnataka showing his wllingness for mutual discussions on this long pending border dispute.

(c) and (d) As there are diffenences between the State Governments of Karnataka & Maharashtra over the recommandations of the Mahajan Commission, the Government of India has been of the view that the dispute should be resolved primarily by the two state Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation and it will be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments in this ragard.

**Naga Problem**

2110. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the main demands of NSCN in Nagaland indicating the main problem in solving this issue;

(b) the number of persons lost their lives during the last three years due to this problem ; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the near future to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The main demand of NSCN has been for creation of an independent Nagaland out of the Naga inhabited areas in India and Myanmar. The territorial integrity of India is non-negotiable.

(b) The number of persons who lost their lives due to violence generated by the NSCN during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (up to 25.6.97) was 105, 192 and 119 respectively.

(c) The Prime Minister, in a statement in both houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 has informed, *interalis*, that after his visit to Nagaland and other North Eastern States, the Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements had been reiterated and that after talks with the Issak-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1 August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. Efforts continue to involve other insurgent groups in the peace process.

*[Translation]*

**River Pollution**

2111. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought from external agencies for the schemes of cleaning the rivers;

(b) if so, the details of those schemes for which the external assistance is likely to be received and the names of the countries extending financial assistance for various schemes in India ; and

(c) the time by which this financial assistance is likely to be received and the time by which the major rivers are likely to be received and the time by which the major rivers are likely to be made pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) *Ganga Action Plan Phase-II at Kanpur under Indo-Dutch Environmental Sanitation Programme :*

Recently Royal Netherlands Embassy informed that they have sent the revised draft Side Letter approved by Netherlands Governments to Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. After approval by our Government, the agreement will be signed and the funds will be flowing in 1998-99 . The total assistance expected under this Project from Netherlands is about 51.2 million Dutch Guilders, apart from the technical assistance that shall be provided by them under the Programme.

*Gomati River Action Plan Phase-II* (In the city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh)

Overseas Development Administration of U.K. Government, has appointed consultants who have prepared the draft Master plan : which is now being discussed and will be considered by the U.K. Government for financial assistance in course of time. The amount of assistance under this programme is not yet finalised, since the draft master Plan is in the discussion stage. The time frame for availability of the financial assistance for this scheme is expected to be sometime in 1998-99.